CHANGES TO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) QUESTIONNAIRES (HOUSING QUESTIONS)

QUESTIONNAIRE	QUESTION WORDING	EXPLANATION OF CHANGES, AND COMPARISONS TO CENSUS 1990 AND CENSUS 2000 FORMS.
1996 - 1998 ACS	H1. Which best describes this building? Include all apartments, flats, etc., even if vacant. A mobile home or trailer A one-family house detached from any other house A one-family house attached to one or more houses A building with 2 apartments A building with 3 or 4 apartments A building with 5 to 9 apartments A building with 10 to 19 apartments A building with 20 to 49 apartments A building with 50 or more apartments Boat, RV, van, etc.	
1999 ACS	1. Which best describes this building? Include all apartments, flats, etc., even if vacant. A mobile home A one-family house detached from any other house A one-family house attached to one or more houses A building with 2 apartments A building with 3 or 4 apartments A building with 5 to 9 apartments A building with 10 to 19 apartments A building with 20 to 49 apartments A building with 50 or more apartments Boat, RV, van, etc.	In the first answer category, the words "or trailer" were deleted to match the proposed 2000 census item. Two response categories differ from the 1990 census item. The first response category was "A mobile home or trailer." The last response category was "Other." The words "or trailer" were deleted at the recommendation of the Manufactured Housing Institute. The last category was modified because evaluation of the 1990 census data indicated that respondents indicated "Other" when they were uncertain about the structure classification of their unit. This design resulted in the proportion of units classified as "Other" to be far larger than the number of units that were classified as "Boat, tent, van, etc." in 1980.

1996 - 1998 ACS	H2.	About when was this building first built? If you do not know the exact year, give your best estimate. (Year)	
1999 ACS	2.	About when was this building first built? 1999 or later 1995 to 1998 1990 to 1994 1980 to 1989 1970 to 1979 1960 to 1969 1950 to 1959 1940 to 1949 1939 or earlier	The response area was changed from a write-in space to response categories. The italicized instructions were dropped. Except for the first response category, where the ACS uses "1999 or later" and the proposed 2000 census category is "1999 to 2000," the ACS item matches the proposed 2000 census item. Research showed higher item response rates when categories were used rather than write-ins.
1996 - 1998 ACS	Н3.	When did PERSON 1 (listed in the List of Residents on page 2) move into this house or apartment? (Month)(Year)	
1999 ACS	3.	When did PERSON 1 (listed in the List of Residents on page 2) move into this house, apartment, or mobile home?(Month)(Year)	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure type. The question matches the proposed 2000 census question. The ACS response area includes "Month" to observe recent movers.

1996 - 1998 ACS	H4a.	Do all persons staying in this house or apartment usually spend more than two consecutive months of the year at another residence? No	
	b.	Yes Where is that residence located?	
	.		
	c.	How long does this household usually spend at that residence?	
		Months each year	
1999 ACS	28a.	Do all of the persons listed on pages 2 and 3 live at this address year round?	This set of questions about household members'
		Yes - SKIP to the questions for Person 1 on the next page No -	other residence was changed. The revised set of questions asks respondents to classify the sample residence when all of the household members live somewhere else part of the year.
	b.	Of the persons listed on pages 2 and 3, how many live somewhere else part of the year?	
		All persons listed Some persons - How many? Persons - SKIP to the questions for Person 1 on the next page.	
	c.	Do you consider this house, apartment, or mobile home, that uses the address on the front cover, your -	
		Primary residence?	
		Vacation home?	
		School residence?	
		Work residence?	
		Other - <i>Specify</i>	

1996 - 1998 ACS	Н5.	Is this house or mobile home on	
		Less than 1 acreSKIP to question H7 1 to less than 10 acres 10 or more acres	
1999 ACS	4.	How many acres is this house or mobile home on? Less than 1 acreSKIP to question 6 1 to 9.9 acres 10 or more acres	The question wording was changed, and the second response category was modified to match the proposed 2000 census item.
1996 - 1998 ACS	Н6.	IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, were the sales of all agricultural products from this property \$1,000 or more? Yes No	
1999 ACS	5.	IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what were the actual sales of all agricultural products from this property? None \$1 to \$999 \$1,000 to \$2,499 \$2,500 to \$4,999 \$5,000 to \$9,999 \$10,000 or more	The question wording and response categories were changed to match the 1990 census item and the proposed 2000 census item. This design is used primarily to identify farm residences, and allows us to adapt to changes in the farm definition. The ACS monthly data collection necessitates that the reference period be "In the past 12 months" rather than "In 1999" for the 2000 census.
1996 - 1998 ACS	Н7.	Is there a business such as a store or barber shop or a medical office on this property? Yes No	
1999 ACS	6.	Is there a business (such as a store or barber shop) or a medical office on this property? Yes No	With the addition of parentheses, the 1999 ACS item matches the 1990 census item and the proposed 2000 census item.

1996 - 1998 ACS	Н8.	How many rooms are in this house or apartment? Do NOT count bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers, halls, half-rooms, or utility rooms. Room(s)	
1999 ACS	7.	How many rooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home? Do NOT count bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers, halls, or half-rooms. 1 room 2 rooms 3 rooms 4 rooms 5 rooms 6 rooms 7 rooms 8 rooms 9 or more rooms	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure type. The response area was changed from a write-in space to response categories to match the 2000 census item. Research showed that there was no significant difference in the item response rates when categories were compared with write-in entries for number of bedrooms. The ACS question uses the phrase "are in" rather than the phrase "do you have" in the 2000 census item.
1996 - 1998 ACS	Н9.	How many bedrooms are in this house or apartment? Count the number of bedrooms that you would list if this house or apartment were for sale or for rent. Bedroom(s) OR None	
1999 ACS	8.	How many bedrooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home; that is, how many bedrooms would you list if this house, apartment, or mobile home were on the market for sale or rent? No bedroom 1 bedroom 2 bedrooms 3 bedrooms 4 bedrooms 5 or more bedrooms	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure type. The italicized instructions were incorporated into the question. The response area was changed from a write-in space to response categories. The ACS question uses the phrase "are in" rather than the phrase "do you have" in the 2000 census item.

1996 - 1998 ACS	H10.	Does this house or apartment have complete plumbing facilities; that is 1) hot and cold piped water, 2) a flush toilet, and 3) a bathtub or shower? Yes, has all three facilities No	
1999 ACS	9.	Does this house, apartment, or mobile home have COMPLETE plumbing facilities; that is, 1) hot and cold piped water, 2) a flush toilet, and 3) a bathtub or shower? Yes, has all three facilitiesNo	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure type. The word "COMPLETE" was capitalized for emphasis. The ACS question uses the phrase "Does this have" rather than the phrase "do you have" in the 2000 census item.
1996 - 1998 ACS	H11.	Does this house or apartment have complete kitchen facilities; that is 1) a sink with piped water, 2) a stove or range, and 3) a refrigerator? Yes, has all three facilities No	
1999 ACS	10.	Does this house, apartment, or mobile home have COMPLETE kitchen facilities; that is, 1) a sink with piped water, 2) a stove or range, and 3) a refrigerator? Yes, has all three facilities No	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure type. The word "COMPLETE" was capitalized for emphasis. The term "stove" replaced the term "Cookstove" used in the 1990 census item. The ACS question uses the phrase "Does this have" rather than the phrase "do you have" in the 2000 census item.

1996 - 1998 ACS	H12.	Does this house or apartment building get water from - _ A public system such as a city water department or private company? _ An individual drilled well? _ An individual dug well? _ Some other source, such as a spring, creek, river, cistern, etc.	This item was deleted from the 1999 ACS because it is not a proposed 2000 census item.
1996 - 1998 ACS	Н13.	Is this house or apartment building connected to a public sewer? Yes, connected to a public sewer No, connected to septic tank or cesspool No, uses other means	This item was deleted from the 1999 ACS because it is not a proposed 2000 census item.
1996 - 1998 ACS	H14.	Does this house or apartment have air conditioning? Yes, a central air conditioning system Yes, one or more individual room units No	This item was deleted from the 1999 ACS because it is not a proposed 2000 census item.
1996 - 1998 ACS	Н15.	Does this house or apartment have a central heating system; that is, one system that heats all or most of the rooms? — Yes _ No	This item was deleted from the 1999 ACS because it is not a proposed 2000 census item.
1996 - 1998 ACS	H16.	Is there a telephone in this house or apartment? YesNo	
1999 ACS	11.	Is there telephone service available in this house, apartment, or mobile home from which you can both make and receive calls? Yes No	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure type. The 1999 ACS item matches the proposed 2000 census item. On previous ACS questionnaires, the question adopted the focus of the 1990 Census question that asked a respondent to report if a telephone was in the unit. The Federal Communications Commission recommended the change to telephone service availability because it is a better measure of households that have service available to initiate and receive calls.

1996 - 1998 ACS	H17.	How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household?	
		Vehicle(s) OR None	
1999 ACS	12.	How many automobiles, vans, and trucks of one-ton capacity or less are kept at home for use by members of this household? None123456 or more	With the change in the response area from a write-in space to response categories, the 1999 ACS item matches the 1990 census item and the proposed 2000 census item. The 1990 census item had a response category of "7 or more". The Department of Transportation and the Census Bureau agreed that the response category of "6 or more" is sufficient.
1996 - 1998 ACS	Н18.	Which FUEL is used MOST for heating this house or apartment? Gas: from underground pipes serving the neighborhood Gas: bottled, tank, or LP Electricity Fuel oil, kerosene, etc Coal or coke Wood Solar energy Other fuel No fuel used	
1999 ACS	13.	Which FUEL is used MOST for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home? Gas: from underground pipes serving the neighborhood Gas: bottled, tank, or LP Electricity Fuel oil, kerosene, etc Coal or coke Wood Solar energy Other fuel No fuel used	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure type. The 1999 ACS item matches the 2000 census item.

1996 - 1998 ACS	H19a.	LAST MONTH, what was the cost of electricity for this house or apartment?	
1990 1990 Nes	11174.	\$00 (Last month) OR Included in rent or in condominium fee No charge or electricity not used	
	b.	LAST MONTH, what was the cost of gas for this house or apartment?	
		\$00 (Last month) OR Included in rent or in condominium fee No charge or gas not used	
	c.	IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what was the cost of water and sewer for this house or apartment? If you have lived here less than 12 months, estimate the cost. \$00 (Past 12 months) OR _ Included in rent or in condominium fee _ No charge	
	d.	IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what was the cost of fuel oil, wood, kerosene, coal, etc. for this house or apartment? If you have lived here less than 12 months, estimate the cost. \$00 (Past 12 months) OR Included in rent or in condominium fee No charge or these fuels not used	

1999 ACS	14a.	LAST MONTH, what was the cost of electricity for this house, apartment, or mobile home?	The words "or mobile home" were added to each question to be more inclusive of the structure type.
		Las month's cost - Dollars \$00 OR Included in rent or in condominium fee No charge or electricity not used	The ACS approach differs from the census item to the extent that monthly costs of electricity and gas are collected in the ACS while the decennial asks about annual costs. In both the ACS and census, we ultimately produce average
	b.	LAST MONTH, what was the cost of gas for this house, apartment, or mobile home? Last month's costs - Dollars \$00 OR Included in rent or in condominium fee Included in electricity payment entered above No charge or gas not used	monthly costs. There is evidence to suggest that we can do this better in the census by asking for annual costs. We do not want last month's costs in April 2000 (March) since it may not be representative of the entire year. Since ACS data are gathered all year long, the best estimate of average monthly costs will result from an average of these monthly estimates. The distinctive approaches followed in the ACS and the decennial are appropriate for their respective data collection environments.
	c.	IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what was the cost of water and sewer for this house, apartment, or mobile home? If you have lived here less than 12 months, estimate the cost. Past 12 months' cost - Dollars \$00 OR Included in rent or in condominium fee No charge	The 1999 ACS item also added the response category "Included in electricity payment" to the second item to facilitate those respondents who receive one bill for both electrical and gas costs. The 1990 census item for the cost of water did not include sewage fees.
	d.	IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what was the cost of oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc., for this house, apartment or mobile home? If you have lived here less than 12 months, estimate the cost. Past 12 months' cost - Dollars \$00 OR Included in rent or in condominium fee No charge or these fuels not used	

1996 - 1998 ACS	H20.	At any time DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, were you or any member of this household enrolled in or receiving benefits from:	
	a.	Free or reduced-price meals at school through the Federal School Lunch Program or the Federal School Breakfast Program?	
		Yes No	
	b.	the Federal home heating and cooling assistance program?	
		Yes No	
1999 ACS	15.	At any time DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, were you or any member of this household enrolled in or receiving benefits from:	In part a of the item, the name of the programs were corrected.
	a.	free or reduced-price meals at school through the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program?	
		Yes No	
	b.	the Federal home heating and cooling assistance program?	
		Yes No	
1996 - 1998 ACS	H21.	At any time DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, did anyone in this household receive Food Stamps?	
		Yes - What was the value of the food stamps? \$00 (12 month amount) No	
1999 ACS	16.	At any time DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS, did anyone in this household receive Food Stamps?	The words "Food Stamps" were capitalized in the question following the Yes response
		Yes - What was the value of the Food Stamps? Past 12 months' value - Dollars \$00 (12 month amount)	category.

1996 - 1998 ACS	H22.	Is this house or apartment part of a condominium? Yes What is the monthly condominium fee? \$00 (Monthly) OR None No	
1999 ACS	17.	Is this house, apartment, or mobile home part of a condominium? Yes What is the monthly condominium fee? For renters, answer only if you pay the condominium fee in addition to your rent; otherwise, mark the "None" box. Monthly amount - Dollars \$00 ORNoneNo	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure type. An instruction, which had been tested, was added to clarify the follow-up question for renters.
1996 - 1998 ACS	H23.	Is this house or apartment _ Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan? _ Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)? _ Rented for cash rent? _ Occupied without payment of cash rent? Skip to question H27	
1999 ACS	18.	Is this house, apartment, or mobile home Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan? Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)? Rented for cash rent? Occupied without payment of cash rent? Skip to question 21	The words "or mobile home" were added to each question to be more inclusive of the structure type. The 1999 ACS item matches the proposed 2000 census item.

1996 - 1998 ACS	H24.	What is the monthly rent for this house or apartment?	
		\$00 (Monthly)	
	H25.	Does the monthly rent include any meals?	
		Yes No	
1999 ACS	19a.	What is the monthly rent for this house, apartment, or mobile home?	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure
		Monthly amount Dollars \$.00	type.
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Although there is a difference in the lead in to
	b.	Does the monthly rent include any meals?	the question, the 1999 ACS question essentially matches the 1990 census item and the proposed
		Yes No	2000 census item.
1996 - 1998 ACS	H26.	Is the rent on this house or apartment reduced because the Federal, state, or local government is paying part of the cost?	
		Yes No	
1999 ACS	20a.	Is the rent on this house, apartment, or mobile home reduced because the Federal, state, or local government is paying part of the cost?	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure
		Yes	type.
		No - Skip to question 21	The follow-up question was added in response to welfare reform programs.
	b.	What government program provides this reduced rent?	
		The Section "8" program Some other government program	
		Not sure	

1996 - 1998 ACS	Н27.	Is this house or apartment in a public housing project; that is, is it part of a government housing project for persons with low income? YesNo	
1999 ACS	21.	Is this house, apartment, or mobile home in a public housing project; that is, is it part of a government housing project for persons with low income? YesNo	The words "or mobile home" were added to the question to be more inclusive of the structure type.
1996 - 1998 ACS	H28.	What is the value of this property; that is, how much would this house or mobile home and lot, or condominium unit sell for if it were for sale? \$00 (Value)	Responses were changed to listed categories instead of a write-in box. Also, the 1998 question included "condominium unit" rather than "apartment." The 1999 version is better because it is all inclusive. (A "condominium unit" could be a house or mobile home)
1999 ACS	22.	What is the value of this property; that is, how much do you think this house and lot, apartment, or mobile home and lot, would sell for if it were for sale? Less than \$10,000 \$10,000 to \$14,999 \$15,000 to \$19,999 \$20,000 to \$24,999 \$25,000 to \$29,999 \$30,000 to \$34,999 \$35,000 to \$39,999 \$40,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$59,999 \$70,000 to \$79,999 \$80,000 to \$89,999 \$90,000 to \$99,999 \$100,000 tp \$124,999 \$125,000 to \$149,999 \$150,000 to \$199,999 \$200,000 to \$199,999 \$200,000 to \$249,999 \$250,000 or more Specify	The question wording was modified slightly. The 1999 ACS question matches the proposed 2000 census question. The ACS response area was changed from a write-in space to categories because research showed a consistently higher non-response rate for write-in values. The ACS item has 19 response categories, and a write-in space for homes valued at 250,000 or more. The proposed 2000 census item has 24 response categories, with the last category being "\$1,000,000 or more." There are no write-ins for high valued homes.

1996 - 1998 ACS	H29.	What are the annual real estate taxes on this property?	
		\$00 (Annual) OR None	
1999 ACS	23.	What are the annual real estate taxes on THIS property?	The word "THIS" was capitalized for emphasis.
		Annual amount - Dollars \$00 OR None	The proposed 2000 census item also uses this format; however, the reference period is "last year." Since the ACS in conducted every month, a reference to something other than "last year" is more appropriate for the ACS.
1996 - 1998 ACS	Н30.	What is the annual payment for fire, hazard, and flood insurance on this property?	
		\$00 (Annual) OR None	
1999 ACS	24.	What is the annual payment for fire, hazard, and flood insurance on THIS property?	The word "THIS" was capitalized for emphasis.
		Annual amount - Dollars \$00 OR None	The proposed 2000 census item also uses this format; however, the reference period is "last year." Since the ACS in conducted every month, a reference to something other than "last year" is more appropriate for the ACS.

1996 - 1998 ACS	Н31.	Do you or any member of this household have a mortgage, deed of trust, contract to purchase, or similar debt on this property?	
		Yes, mortgage, deed of trust, or similar debt Yes, contract to purchase No SKIP to question H35	
	Н32.	How much is the regular monthly mortgage payment on this property? Include payments only on FIRST mortgage or contract to purchase. \$00 (Monthly)	
		OR No regular payment required SKIP to question H35	
	Н33.	Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for real estate taxes on this property?	
		Yes, taxes included in payment No, taxes paid separately or taxes not required	
	Н34.	Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for fire, hazard, or flood insurance on this property?	
		Yes, insurance included in payment No, insurance paid separately or no insurance	

1999 ACS	25a.	Do you or any member of this household have a mortgage, deed of trust, contract to purchase, or similar debt on THIS property?	The word "THIS" was capitalized for emphasis in all four questions.
		 Yes, mortgage, deed of trust, or similar debt Yes, contract to purchase No SKIP to question 26a 	The word "mortgage" was added for clarification in the response categories in parts c and d of the item.
	b.	How much is the regular monthly mortgage payment on THIS property? <i>Include payments only on FIRST mortgage or contract to purchase.</i>	In part a of this item the ACS has the phrase "or any member of this household" which is not part of the proposed 2000 census item.
		Monthly amount - <i>Dollars</i> \$00 OR No regular payment required SKIP to question 26a	In parts b , c , and d of this item, the ACS uses the word "the" while the proposed 2000 census item uses the word "your."
	c.	Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for real estate taxes on THIS property?	
		Yes, taxes included in mortgage payment No, taxes paid separately or taxes not required	
	d.	Does the regular monthly mortgage payment include payments for fire, hazard, or flood insurance on THIS property?	
		Yes, insurance included in mortgage paymentNo, insurance paid separately or no insurance	

1996 - 1998 ACS	Н35.	Do you or any member of this household have a second mortgage or a home equity loan on this property? Yes, home equity loan Yes, second mortgage Yes, second mortgage and home equity loan No SKIP to H37	
	Н36.	How much is the regular monthly payment on ALL second and third mortgages and home equity loans? \$00 (Monthly) OR No regular payment required	
1999 ACS	26a.	Do you or any member of this household have a second mortgage or a home equity loan on THIS property? Yes, home equity loan Yes, second mortgage Yes, second mortgage and home equity loan No - SKIP	In part a of this item, the word "THIS" was capitalized for emphasis. Also, this question matches the proposed 2000 census question, except that the ACS question has the additional phrase "or any member of this household". In part b of this item, the question wording was changed from "second and third mortgages" to "second or junior mortgages," and the phrase
	b.	How much is the regular monthly payment on all second or junior mortgages and all home equity loans on THIS property? \$00 (Monthly) OR No regular payment required	"on THIS property" was added. This question matches the proposed 2000 census question, except that the ACS question uses the word "the" rather than "your." In the response area, the proposed 2000 census item does not have the third ACS response category ("Yes, second mortgage and home equity loan."), but does have an instruction to "Mark (X) all boxes that apply."

1996 - 1998 ACS	Н37.	What are the total annual costs for personal property taxes, site rent, registration fees, and license fees on this mobile home and its site? Do not include real estate taxes. \$00 (Annual)	
1999 ACS	27a.	Do you or any member of this household have an installment loan or contract on THIS mobile home? Yes No	Part a of this item was added to clarify the mobile home households that have an installment loan or contract. Part b of this item specifies that installment loan payments should be included in the annual costs. The revised question more clearly
	b.	What are the total annual costs for installment loan payments, personal property taxes, site rent, registration fees, and license fees on THIS mobile home and its site? Exclude real estate taxes.	identifies the mobile home fees that account for the majority of the shelter costs of households residing in these types of units.
		Annual costs Dollars \$00	In part b of this item, the word "THIS" was capitalized for emphasis. The term "Installment loan payments" was added to this question.
			The proposed 2000 census item uses the reference period "last year." Since the ACS is conducted every month, a reference to something other than "last year" is more appropriate for the ACS.